

## **4 Grant Application Attachment 2: Eligible Applicant Documentation**

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### **4.1 Statement**

In 2007, the Gateway Cities formed an official joint powers authority (JPA) under California law to steer their planning efforts, establish jurisdictional authority, and provide solid governance for the IRWMP development and implementation. The LA Gateway IRWM JPA (or Gateway Authority) is the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) for the Gateway Region. In 2009, the Region participated in the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Region Acceptance Process (RAP) and was unconditionally approved to compete in the next round of IRWMP grants.

The Gateway Region is an area in Southeast Los Angeles County, comprised of the 26 Gateway Cities. (There is a 27<sup>th</sup> member of the Gateway Region, Avalon, which is on the Island of Catalina.) While the governing board is still developing, signatory Gateway Authority members currently include the Southeast Water Coalition (SEWC), Central Basin Municipal Water District (CBMWD), the Long Beach Water Department and the Cities of Bellflower, Cerritos, Commerce, Downey, Lakewood, Long Beach, Norwalk, Paramount, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Signal Hill, South Gate, Vernon, and Whittier. The City of Bell Gardens will become part of the governing board in October, 2010, and the City of Lynwood shortly thereafter. By definition, each member agency of the Gateway Authority participates willingly, and by resolution of its governing body.

The JPA format as provided by Government Code Section 6500 et. seq. allows the Gateway Authority to have administrative and legal powers common to its members. At this time, all Gateway Authority member cities have statutory authority over water supply and water management. The Gateway Authority is responsible for overall contract administration, project management, and project reporting. The Gateway Authority has retained legal counsel, administrative services, and consultants to prepare a grant application and RAP material package and administer ongoing projects. It also manages a \$10 million ARRA grant to satisfy the TMDL for trash in the Los Angeles River, acts as the fiduciary agent for seven government entities (cities and state agency) for the Los Cerritos Channel metals TMDL, and has applied for several federal grants.

This organization is considered a local agency as defined in Appendix B of the PSP Guidelines. It has legal authority to enter into grant agreements with the State of California.